OUR MEN OF LAWS

Studies from Life in the Assembly of 1891.

SOME PROMISING DEMOCRATS

Legislators Whom New York May Thank for Hepe of Rapid Transit.

ASPIRING YOUNG LEADERS.

What will the record be?

A clean white page is before the Assembly of 1891. How will it look when the gavel puts the period to the last sentence written upon it?

The prospect opens brightly. It is a good House, take it all in all, and not for years has New York city sent a better delegation of Assemblymen. Speaker Sheehan has done the best he could in

making up the committees. The "strikers" have been sprinkled among the "good" committees, where they can do the least harm, and those who could not be smotnered in that way have been massed together in one committee, where very few bills will be sent. This was shrewd policy. The Governor evidently intends that the first democratic House in years shall not be tainted with scandal.

It is essentially a young House. Paradoxical as it may seem there are eighty-two members who have seen previous service and six members who have served five terms or more. They are Husted, Sheehan, Blumenthal, Bush of Chemung, Fish and Gallagher. Only forty-six are brand new men.

TYPICALLY DEMOCRATIC.
Lewyers predominate. They number forty-five exclusive of Timothy D. Sullivan, the law student, The merchants come next, with twenty-seven representatives. The farmers, after all the Alliance agitation, come third, with twenty-one members. Only two men own up to being liquor dealers, and two say they have no occupation.

The balance of the House includes nine manufac turers, four journalists, four agents, four clerks,



plumber, one carpenter, one builder, one iron moulder and one blacksmith. This makes a typically representative democratic body.

Half the New York members are lawyers. As a whole the delegation will bear criticism. There are weak spots, but they are fewer than usual. Tammany has strengthened itself in the new and ex-cellent material that it has taken up.

The father of the House in point of service, for he never will be old, is General James W. Husted. The baby in point of years is Bridegroom Stein. The House is now under way. The selection of

United States Senator being out of the way, the members have settled down to routine work, and the committees have begun their annual grind. Unless some row springs up between Platt and Miller, it is hard to see where any excitement will enter into the session. The Fish bolt of last year was a welcome relief to the tediousness of the Assembly, but as Platt has backed down on the home rule principle and rapid transit is assured, the fun from that source is cut off. CLOSE DRAWN LINES.

or sensational scenes in the meagre majority of the democrats.

Sheehan has only eight the better of the republicans, and only three more than a quorum. are more than eight of the democrats to whom theattractions of Albany are powerful. Such men are likely to forget duty. Not having a quorun the republicans cannot pass a bill, but the danger to the democrats lies in the fact that they have enough votes to pass a resolution and to block democratic policy unless the majority is ever pres-Some of the prominent members of the House

are worthy of mention. CONTAINED ASPIRATIONS.

Blue eyed Billy Sheehan, of Eric, is Speaker, but that is not the height of his ambition. He longs to sit in the place now occupied by Lieutenant Governor Jones. He would have run for that office on the last State ticket if he had been old enough. Mr. theeban is now only thirty-two years old, but his bug experience as a leader of a hopeless minority m the floor has sharpened those faculties which will nyw, stand him in good stead in the chair. Trained as a lawyer, well endowed by nature, eloquent, wity and, above all, honest in his motives. Sheehan is one of the best types of the Irish-American politician in the State. His aged father is a denocratic Spartan. The old gentleman recently, on what was thought to be his dying bed, threatened to trounce his son if

for her husband do not end with the Lieutenant Governor's chair.

The Speaker has chosen an able lieutenant for his old position on the floor. One great advantage that Leader Charles P. McClelland has is the fact that a majority and not a minority stands behind him. If this was reversed McClelland would still "fill the bill." Born in the Land o' Cakes, he has enough snap to make dough of Jim Husted's schemes. Like his sneestors he is dogged, full of grit and dees not know when he is whipped. McClelland is a self-made man, having worked himself up from a grocery store to Chief Deputy Collector of the port of New York under President Cleveland. He is a lawyer, and served in the Assemblies of 1885 and 1886.

YOUTH IN THE VAN.

The young leader is not yet thirty-seven years old. Although a Cleveland man, his nomination was demanded by Governor Hill in the First West-chester district to prevent the restum of J. Irring Burns, who had a nice little job put up for the nemination of a weak democratic candidate whom he could knock down. McClelland beat Burns by 850 votes. Having been made leader Mr. McClelland does not allow his Cleveland predilections to sway him in the least. Naturally he is brought into close contact with the Governor, and just as natu-Governor's chair.

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Milo M. Acker, of Steuben, is the republican leader. The choice is a happy one. Acker, like a steam calliope, blew the heart out of the Hanald Libel bill two years ago, but he believed he was right and went ahead regardless of consequences. That is the kind of a man he is. Acker's life has been one of hardship in the logging camps of Pennsylvania and on the farms around Hartaville, N. Y., where he was born in 1853. The time that he could spare from work was devoted to study. He is now a lawyer of Hornellsville and is rapidly taking front rank in the profession. Acker strikes ones being a man who is in dead earnest and withal frank and keen. The only amusement he allows himself is whist, and he plays it, as he does everything else, to win. He is a forcible talker, ready in debate and possesses what is a rare quality withlegislators—brevity. He has the ability to keep silent when talking is unnecessary. This is his fourth term in the Assembly. He is equally popular with both sides of the Chamber and is regarded as a man with a "Tuture." He has just taken unto himself a bride.

DIGNITT FROM THE TWENTT-SECOND.

bride.

DIGNITY FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND.

The Twenty-second New York district has an able representative in Joseph Blumenthal. There is considerable dignity in Mr. Blumenthal. The flippancy of some of his colleagues in the New York delegation troubles him sorely. To him law-making is a sacred duty, and there is no place for



fun in the halls of legislation. Yet Mr. Blumenthal is not a serious man. He is rather inclined to joke at the proper time and place, and is ever cleasant and genial, even when engrossed with the affairs of state.

Had McClelland not been chosen leader the mantle would have fallen upon Blumenthal. It is a noticeable fact that two of the strongest men in the Senate and Assembly, Cantor and Blumenthal, are Hebrews, and, let it also be said, two of the best men.

Hebrews, and, let it also be said, we or men.

Blumenthal is not a showy talker nor a ready speaker, but what he says is delivered with earnestness, and the logic of his remarks is, as a rule, unassaliable. He was born in Gormany in 1834 and was educated in New York schools. In 1853 he went to California, but about 1860 he became an importer in New York, retiring a few years ago on an ample New York, retiring a few years ago on an ample fortune. He was astrong supporter of Samuel J. Triden and served on the Committee of Seventy. His first term in the Legislature was in 1873, and he served in 1874, 1888, 1890 and 1890. His majority last November was nearly 6,000, on account of his rapid transit record. This year he is chairman of the Cities Committee, before which will come much important business.



record. This year he is chairman of the Cities Committee, before which will come much important business.

A FISH OUT OF WAIRE.

The great and only Husted, while neither speaker nor leader, is as brilliant, witty, genial and ubiquitous as of yore. So strong is habit that rising the other day to speak the General being held by Sheehan there was a roar, to which the General, with his hand on breast, bowed with mock profundity. The mistake was a natural one, for the General has six times held the gavel, beating the records of De Witt C. Littlejohn, of Oswego, and Thomas G. Aivord, the "old sait," of Onondaga. Only thrice has James been leader of the minority, although this is his twanty-first year as a member of the Assembly. In choosing his seat this year the General remarked. "I have attained my majority; this is my twenty-first birthday." The Husted wink is famous. "Jimmy' has it with him this winter. His sobriquet of "Bald Eagle" is not due to any likeness to the bird of freedom. It was bestowed because the General's head has come through his hair, and his pate is as glossy and shiny as a brand new billiard ball. The General does not object to the title of "The Bald Eagle of Westcheeter," but one man will never forget having called him the bald headed eagle. The difference was explained to him in a way that nearly left him bald.

Everybody likes Hritan have the please about his title for "The Bald Eagle of Westcheeter," but one man will never forget having called him the bald headed eagle. The difference was explained to him in a way that nearly left him bald. They may think what they please about his into sind, they can't help it. They may think what they please about his incode and so bubbling over with wit and anecdote that he is courted even



HURTED, FROM THE REAR. himself to his hearers' the whole manner of the moods and so bubbling over with wit and anecdote that he is courted even by his political enemies. "Jimmy" often changes front, but possesses such a marked individuality that one cannot mistake him even from the rear.

over with wit and anecdote that he is courted even by his political enemies. "Jimmy" often changes front, but possesses such a marked individuality that one cannot mistake him even from the rear. "PUTNAM'S TALL PLUMES.

The tall plumes of Putnam wave on the left side of the asie, just behind the "Baid Eagle." Ham Fish, who was read out of the republican party by Tom Platt last spring, is chairman on: the Republican Assembly Caucus Committee this winter. Men of Fish's stamp are not easily read out of a party or kept under. He comes from distinguished stock, and he is a credit to his race. He showed the stuff he is made of by leading the famous bolt against Boss Platt in the last Assembly. That bolt will give New York rapid transit this year, and to Fish belongs the credit. To look at Fish one would not think him a determined man. His bearing, however, and manner in the House has proved that he cannot be trified with. Once having made up his mind that a certain course is right, friend and foe go down before him. In debate Fish has a peculiar habit of reasing his hands on his hips, then bending backward as if defying his opponent to come on. He is the pride of Putnam and has represented his county seem times in the Legislature. The last time he ran, although opposed by Plats, his majority was over one thousand.

ULSTER'S FOUND WAR HOMES.

Ulster county sends to the Assembly as one of its representatives an exceedingly bright and well equipped legislator. George H. Bush, representing the Third Ulster district, is of German and Irish stock, and American training has brought out in him the best qualities of both races. He is caccedingly clear headed even witty at times. His arguments in speaking are like, so much round shot, which come flying from his brain to the great damage of his opponents position. The House can get into a tangle over a question, when a word from Bush will frequently show that there is much ado about nothing. Bush is a bachelor, a democrat and one of the leaders of the Bar of his county. Cheming

The doctor is a native of New York State, a graduate of Bellevue Medical College and is a practising physician of Horseheads.

In the War of the Rebellion the Doctor gained great distinction. He fought in the battles of Bull Run.



Ernest Crosby. This is Hildreth's maiden session. He is ambitious and able, but is wisely refraining from pushing himself forward now, in order that he may acquire experience before he tries to get into the front rank. Mr. Hildreth is a lawyer. He was born in New Orleans and was graduated at Columbia College. His father, Colonel Hildreth, proprietor of the West Ead Hotel at Long Branch, is a democrat, but the son is an ardent republican.



JOHNNY BRODSKY.

Albany county has one of the strongest men in the House—Galen R. Hitt. He is a lawyer of high rank, and one of the most eloquent and influential speakers in the Legislature. This is his third consecutive term, but the democrate of the Third district say be can have a lite lesse of the seat if the wishes it. They gave him 3,000 majority last fall, which is about the normal democratic majority in the entire county. Hitt ran in only one-quarter of it. His legal ability gained for Hitt the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee. He is in the prime of life, and by birth a Green Mountain boy, but has lived in Albany trenty-six years. "Giceno" of the House.

"Honest" John Councily is the "Cicero" of the House. In him we have a magnificent illustration of what the free schools of New York city can produce. Born a poor boy and forced a few years ago to earn his daily bread as a "licket chopper" on the "L" road, John, through privation and closelapplication, now graces the legislative halls and his words are listened to with attention and respect. Tammany is fortunate, and knows it, in having such a representative in its delegation. Against his own wishes, but at the demand of the people of the Ninsteenth district, John is in the Assembly for the fourth time, with a majority behind him of over four thousand.

Peter Cooper took a great interest in the struggling young man, who, while learning the plumbers' trade, devoted his evenings to study in the Cooper Union library. Gifted with elequence, Connolly soon became president of the New York Literary Society. A speech of his on the "third term," in 1880, and a sulogy on Horatio Seymour six years later, were so excellent that they put him in the van of young New York orators. He was selected during the Hancock campaign by Mayor Hewitt, ex-Mayor Cooper and Governor Abbett to make speeches in New Jersey.

The Seymour Family wrote to Connolly that his selected during the Hancock campaign by Mayor Hewitt, ex-Mayor Cooper and Governor Abbett to make speeches in New Jersey.

The

The Twenty-third New York district is represented by agentleman of the old school, Colonel George P. Webster. His sented by a gentleman of the George P. Webster. His life has been a most eventful one. He was born in Connection and in 1849 crossed the plains to California with an ox train. For three years he worked in the gold mines; then he went to Kentucky and atudied law. He was elected to the Legislature of that State at the outbreak of the war. The Colonel promptly resigned and, coming North, was commissioned cap tain and assistant quarter-

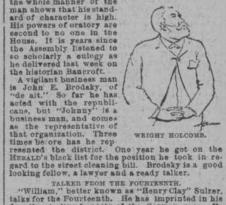
and assistant quartermaster by President Lincoln. After serving in the campaigns in Kentucky and Missouri he was mustered out in 1866 as colonel. Mr. Wobster is a credit to the city, and it is a pity that the lower districts do not select such men to represent them. That he is appreciated by the Twenty-third district is evinced by his plurality of 5,000 last November. The Colonel is more earnest than eloquent in speaking. He watches legislation closely and is very valuable in committee work.



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IN THE SADDLE.

Perhaps the most distinguished member from New York is General Martin T. McMahon, or the Seventh district. Great things are expected of him, but so far he has hept quiet. In the Rebellion, in which the General made a brilliant record, he lost two brothers. He was agreat favorite with General McClellen, on whose staff he served as adjutant general. He was instantly recognized by the Count de Paris on his recent visit as an old companion in arms. At the close of the war he was made brevet major general by the government. President Clevelland appointed him United States Marshal, and he was Receiver of taste in New York for years. General McMahon is the first democrat ever elected to the Assembly from the Seventh district. His majority was 1,300. Wright Holcomb, of the Ninth, is a new member and a good one. It is not too early to say this, for the whole manner of the man shows that his standard or dear good of character is high



gard to the street cleaning bill. Brodsky is a good looking fellow, a lawyer and a ready taker.

TALKER FROM THE FOURTESNIE.

"William," better known as "Henry Clay" Sulzer, takes for the Fourteenth. He has imprined in his face the sterling honesty of the German race. He carries his hair in the air, brushed up as high as it will reach. Sulzer deserves great credit for attaining his present position. He was a poor boy, with nothing against his prospects except that he was born in New Jersey. In spite of that fact he obtained a position as clark in a New York tea store and saved enough to educate himself as a lawyer. Sulzer is a flowery talker, and he is always found on the right side of every question.

"Sheehan has bunched the hits on me."

Thus exclaimed Tim Sullivan, on looking over the personnel of the Commerce and Navigation Committee, of which he is chairman. He has indeed a merry crew with him. For four years Tim has been one of the minority; this year things have changed and Tim feels his cals. Tim's greatest virtue is that he does not drink. His nickname, 'Dry Dollar,' arose from the fact that he always chipped in for the growier, but never partook of its contents. He has an innocent, the provise, but it is a long time since Tim was a child.

The Hour Glass district is represented by Mr. Percival Farouhar. "Parcy" its natty, dreary and

partook of its contents. He has an innocent; besardless face, but it is a child.

The Hour Glass district is represented by Mr. Percival Farquhar. "Percy" is natty, dressy and quite the correct thing. There is good stuff in Farquhar and he is going to get a chance to show it. He felt a little hurt because he was not made chalirman of an important standing committee, but he was being saved for greater things. He was slated for chairman of the special committee on State enumeration, on which will devolve the important task of making Mr. Forter explain his consus methods.

The only liquor seller in the Assembly from New York, according to the official list, is Patrick Henry Roche, of the Fourth district. He has had legislative experience, serving in the Assemblies of 1883, 1884 and 1885, Gossip records him a good fellow and a man who knows when to lay down a full hand.

The Assembly is no new field for Patrick H. Duffy, of the First district. He is down in the list as a merchant, but it fails to say what he deals in. This is his fourth term. With a certain clique in the delegation he is very popular, and although horn in Ireland, he is a gray bachelor and a shoe dealer, and has served in the Assembly six terms. Mullaney, of the Fifth district, also plays pinochile to win. He is a gay bachelor and a shoe dealer, and has served in the Assembly six terms. Mullaney is not an orator, but a great "chinner." His favorite pastime is perpetrating practical jokes on his colleagues.

Good things are expected of Samuel J. Foley, the new man from the Sixth district. He is vouched for by ex-Assemblyman McKenna, and if he does half as well as that gentleman did in the Assembly he will have reason to be uroud of his record.

Foley is a buyer for a New York export dry goods house, and seems to be a clean cut, well meaning young tam.

The return to the Assembly of William Sohmer from the Tenth district is a matter of surprise and congratulation. Sohmer enjoys the proud distinction of having been the only Tammany member of the last

jority. For the first time in years the eleventh district

sends a democrat—William Minor Lawrence. This district has sent some of the best known men in the State to Abbany. Lawrence will find it no small task to fill the shoes of ex-Governor Alonzo B. Cornell, W. W. Astor, James M. Varnum, J. Hampien Robb, Walter Howe and Robert Ray Hamilton. Lawrence is a club man and quite prominent socially. He is a son of Judge Lawrence, and so far as appearances go seems to be able to keep up the high standard demanded by his district.

"The County Democracy" is serving his fourth term. Moses Dinkelspiel is the solo representative that is left of that forlorn organization. He can't ock by himself, so he is going with birds that wear the Tammany feather. "Mose" poses as a Commissioner in the Red Book. He has an office on the Monmouth Park race track and the summer is his busy season.

There are a good many worse men than Dinkelspiel. He is the soul of good nature, a friend to everybody and above the mean, petty little tricks of some of his associates.

"The Voorhis Democracy" (John Kerrigan) represents the Saventeenth district. This is John's third term. What John lacks in education and culture he makes up in good, hard common sense. John is a carpenter, and his mechanical training frequently gives him the upper hand in debate where technical knowledge is required. Some of the "posers" that he put to the Assembly coiling contractors they never answered and they will never forget.

where technical knowledge is required. Some of the "posers" that he put to the Assembly celling contractors they never auswered and they will never forget.

The Thirteenth district seems to have a penchant for handsome men. Having decided to shelve Fred. Gibbs it sends James H. Southworth. He carried the district as a democrat over Cowie and Gibbs by a plurality of 559. Southworth is an Oneida county man and was educated at Union College. He is now a New York lawyer and bids fair to be quite an acquisition to the New York delegation.

W. G. Byrne, of the Sixteenth district, meditates more than he speaks. This is his second term. He is a typical New Yorker and his vote counts.

The foe of the pawn-brokers, Mayor J. Stein, is again on hand from the Twentieth. Stein has just been married, and some wonderful speeches may be looked for this winter. He is the baby of the House, being only twenty, seven years old. He ran like a giant in his district, getting a plurality of 3,600. Stein must spend most of his time at tending society meetings.

The Assembly must seem a queer place to Mr. Louis Drypoloher, of the Fifteenth. He is down on the list as a fine art dealer. He is new to the arts of legislation, fits being his maiden term.

The Eighteenth district sends a lawyer, Daniel K. Martin. He was in the United States District Attorney's office under President Cleveland. He has been a school teacher and gives promise of being a creditable member.

C. C. Clarke represents the annexed, or Twenty-fourth, district. This is his third consecutive term and he has his eve on the Senate, Clarke is a lawyer and a member of the Tammany General and Organization committees.

It will not do to omit mentioning the new Clerk of the House, Charles R. Defreest, who has taken hold of his complicated and responsible duties in a manner that shows he is going to discharge them acceptably.

Defrect is secretary of the Democratic State Committee; he knows politicians and their ways and entirely forgets partisanship in his daily contact with the



ARCTIC RIVER SLEDGING.

FREDERICK SCHWATKA'S EXPERIENCES ON A MOST DECEPTIVE HIGHWAY.

At first thought the novice may say that beyond having a good, level surface for sledging there ought to be no essential difference between travelling in that manner on an Arctic river and any other part of the polar regions; no difference, for Instance, between an Arctic river and an Arctic lake when both are solidly frozen over. But there is a wide divergence between the two,

or at least we found it so in the winter of 1879-80, when travelling along Back's Great Fish River, of the British North America.

I had sought the level bed of this great stream for the advantages I had hoped it would possess in giving me as flat a way as possible on my return trip from the Arctic Ocean to Hudson's Bay, and especially where it out through a range of mountains that had caused me considerable trouble in my spring sledging to the Arctic Sea in 1879. The Esquimaux, those fat faced, good natured and

careless, indifferent people, interposed no object tions to this route, so I fell into the trap easily.

The first obstacle we encountered was in a series of rapids, called the Dangerous Rapids by Lieutenof rapids, called the Dangerous Rapids by Licutienant Back, the first explorer of this great stream, and which are located near the mouth of the river, although as an obstacle these are likely to occur on any fast flowing shallow stream. At the swiftest rapids the water is open the year round, and even where it is not so fast the ice is very thin and much more dangerous than where it is not closed, for in the latter places at least there is some warning in the dense steamlike vapor which arises from these open places on an intensely cold day. This vapor makes one of the most interesting winter sights on an Arctic river. It is oftentimes as black and dense as the smoke from a steamer burning soft coal, and can be seen for miles up or down the river.

FORMIDABLE ICE CRACKS.

There was no joke about getting around them when they extended from one bank to the other, or which was more often the case, to within a few yards of the banks, which were fringed with dangerously thin ice. Such rapids are nearly always between precipitous banks, and it is no small job to take a heavily laden sledge with about a ton of material on it and ascend the sides to get around the rapids. Two or three times we had to retrace our steps quite a distance to get good moderate decivities.

More often we tested the thin ice by digging

our steps quite a distance to get good moderate decidivities.

More often we tested the thin fee by digging holes at intervais, and if at all thick enough passed ever; but in the dangerous places the togs had a long rope reaching back to the aledge forty or fitty feet, so that all the lond was not thrown on the thin places at once, while in the rope we had a means of rescue for the stedge if it broke through. But even this, the greatest obstacle we found near the rapids, was not the worst the river afforded by any means, and I will now refer to the one which prompted me to write this article and the one which prompted me to write this article and the one which prompted me to write this article and the one which prompted me to write this article and the one which prompted me to write this article and the one which prompted me to write this article and the one which prompted on the apparently very simple and unimportant fact of the disposition of the cracks in the river ice—cracks that probably did not create breaks or ridges in the ice over a tenth of an inch in height, if that.

These cracks were invariably perpendicular or at right angles to the course of the stream; that is, they reached across the river from bank to bank, and were from twenty to thirty feet apart on an average. Along these cracks low drifts of snow had accumulated that were from ten to fifteen feet in width, thus leaving sfrips of bare lee between them of about the same width, or making a sort of striged suit for the river of alternate blue and white.

Thus every second or two we would pass from a marrow ribbon or mow to one of ice, and this was most destructive to making any progress. Whenever the formor was stripped from the siedge shoe as if it had been so many egg shells stuck on with 20m, and then when the above was from a marrow ribbon or mow to one of ice, and this was most destructive to making any progress.

I could now fully appreciate the dismal accounts of polar sledge parties of white made twenty-five miles adopt.

LINGE SEARGE

INSIDE HISTORY OF A FAMOUS CRIME

James Matlock Scovel, of Counsel for the Defence, Tells Facts of the Hunter-Armstrong Murder Never Before Revealed.

HUNTER, AS HIS LAWYERS KNEW HIM

Rich and in Good Society, His Malignity and Greed, Though Cunningly Concealed, Would Stop at Nothing.

Of all the murders in the history of crime in this country, that which most nearly resembles an Italian assessination was the killing of John M. Armstrong by Benjamin Hunter, of Philadelphia. The motive of the murder was money.

On a cold, snowy night in December, 1879, near Fifth and Vine streets, in the city of Camden, N. J., a policeman found John M. Armstrong, with his skull cleft, gasping for life on the icy pavement. Near him was a hatchet marked with the initials "F.

The finding of this hatchet resulted in the arrest of an inoffensive man. Ford W. Davis, charged with the murder, and a prima facie case was made against him because he had borrowed some money on a note of John M. Armstrong and retained the same, and Armstrong had been induced to come to Camden ostensibly to collect the money due him from Davis. On that visit be was accompanied by Benjamin Hunter, a maker of heaters and ranges, and a member of good standing of the Lutheran Church "down in the Neck," in the city of Philadelphia, his home being at Eighth and Wharton streets.

For one month the Prosecutor of the Pleas insisted that he had a perfect chain of circumstantial testimony which would haug Ford W. Davis and his partner, one De Maris, who had been interested in financial transactions with Armstrong.

THE MOTIVE.

Armstrong was the head of an interesting family Armstrong was the head of an interesting family and made his living as a publisher of music in Sansom street, above Sevenih. He had borrowed from Benjamin Hunter \$5,000 on his simple note, upon which he had, from time to time, paid maricus interest, but having failed in business he was unable to pay either principal or interest. The money loaned Armstrong belonged to Mrs. Hunter, and constantly brooding over the less of the money, Hunter conceived the idea that a simple and effective method of regaining his lost \$5,000 was to insure Armstrong's life, pay the premium, decoy him to Camden, kill him and collect the money from the insurance companies.

when this idea had once taken peasession of Hunter's mind if assemed the form of homicidal mania.
Nothing could assemed the form of homicidal mania.
Nothing could assemble, for he had not the courage
to strike the blow alone. He found a willing instrument in Thomas Graham, who has now served nearly
twelve of his twenty years' sentence as an accessor,
to the murder of Arastrong. Graham was a hucksize who, in the summer months, preferred to sleep
in his pedier's cart in the highway rather than to return to his own home. He had worked for Hunter
for years, and willingly and without demu entered
into a compact to slay Armstrong.

The sum paid down was \$10, and \$500 was to be
paid on the day of the murder. After the agreement
Hunter, without difficulty, insured the life of his vitim for \$20,00, \$10,000 of which was \$10,000 by
the New York Life, and \$6,000 by the Manhattan.

The EDEED.

The crime was reasy for consummation. Graham
for three weeks carried in a pocket made for the purpose the dendly hatchet marked with the intitials "FW. D.," it being in contemplation to kill Arastrong
in front of Davis boose so that he and not the guilty
man would be hanged for the insurance policies were
rested and the first pentium path by Hunter was
to scure the presence of the victim was
willend by Hunter and sent to Armstrong's place of
business in Sanson street, telling bim that Davis
hid the money in bank and was ready to pay the
amount realized on Arustrong's note. Armstrong
took the bait, met Hunter at six of clock at the Market street ferry, crossed the ferry in the same boah
with both Hunter and of raham and, still accompanied
by Hunter, left the boat and took a var up Second
street, Graham following the car on a dog trot. Hunter and Armstrong left the car at Vine street and proceeded slowly up Vine, Graham following the palr,
lacticle in hand.

At a given signal, the trio having reached a point
with both Hunter and send works the blow had not killed his
victim, groped in the davik for the hatchet, found

sing hymns," he seconomical asserted that he was "not the kind of a man that could be accused of resorting to nurder to collect a debt of \$5,000."

THE FATAL WORDS.

The sagacity of Jacob C. Daubman, then Sheriff of Camden county, was soon rewarded by placing a detective, dressed in female appared, in the cell adjoining Hunter. This discrive, with only a thin partition dividing his cell from that of the suspected man, was rewarded, after a patient vigilance extending through many days and nights, by hearing Hunter tell his own son to seek Graham, to give him money and to tell him that the \$500 promised him would soon be paid. The boy was tracked and found approaching the Graham cottage down in "the Neck." Graham kept away from home. He was finally found, plied with liquor and told that Hunter had confessed that they had killed Armstrong to get the insurance on his life.

Up to this time Hunter had strongly asseverated his innocence. He was told, into upon a Friday night, that Graham, an accomplice, had been discovered and would be committed to the Camden jall side by side with him on that very night. He still reiterated his denial and said that he knew no such man as Graham. In the meantime Graham, tired of the long struggle with poverty, racked by remores and crazed by dissipation, had willingly accompanied the detectives to the house of Prosecutor Riciard S. Jensins, and there made a minute confession of the details of the crime.

At midnight on that Friday night Hunter was removed to the iron cage (which is made of iron bars as thick as a man's wrist), twelve feet square, in the third story of the Camden jail, and Graham was placed in the cell that had been for two months occupied by Benjamin Hunter.

No COMPROMIRE.

So strange and unusual a crime, committed by a man of high social standing, with a happy family surrounding him, could hardly be believed, and there was a reaction in favor of Hunter. The insurance companies were concerned. The scheck was taken by General George M. Robesson—who had been Grant's

His counsel, who had advised him to take the money, insisting that he ought to be glad to get it,

sold:—"Benjamin, I fear your head will ache worst than this before you get through with this case." But Hunter demurred, insisting that the Provident Life and Trust Company should also contribute \$5,000 making \$18,000 in all, which Hunter was willing to

making \$15,000 in all, which Hunter was willing to receive as a compromise.

The criminal's delay was fatal. His bail had already been agreed upon in the sum of \$10,000 John Hunter, the rich brother from South Broad street having placed in the hands of Jesse Huston \$10,000 as security. The Court was ready to accept Mr. Huston as ball for the sum of \$10,000 for Hunter's appearance at the next May been closer. While the proceedings to enter bell were pending and in a condition of adjustment, Garbain was found by Detective James A. Flahert, of Philiadelphia, then induced to confess, brought to Camden, and the crime fastened upon Benjamin Hunter and his accomplice.

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The Legal Battle.

The arrest of Graham was krought about by a reward of \$6,000 offered by the Provident Life and Trust Company. This reward Flaherty says was divided between himself, the Sheriff of the county of Camden and the prosecuting officers.

The defence of Hunter was perhaps as laberlonely and ably conducted as that of any prisoner at the bar of justice during all the criminal annals of Camden county. His counsel were George M. Rebeson and James M. Scovel. Each received \$10,000 for his services in the case. The trial began on the 4th of June and lasted until the 4th of July. The presiding judge was George S. Woodhull, one of the purest and ablest minds among the jurists of New Jersey.

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Among the singular incidents of this cause colors
was the testimony of a family known as "Spellisseys,
the battiers." They lived near "the Neck" in Philadelphia, and to the house of the Spellisseys,
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the battiers." They lived near "the Neck" in Philadelphia, and to the usually wore, and promising to call
for the all that in the morning. Hunter wore the
felt bat over the rives on his errand of crime, and
early or the next morning he called at the Spellisseys
store, resold the felt bat and reclaimed his silk hat.

It became necessary for the prisoner's counsel to
remove this damaging testimony from the jurisdiction
of the Jersey courts. An English detective, for \$300,
undertook to remove the Spellissey family to Manch
Chunk and keep them there until after the trial in
June. He got the family to follow him to Manch
Chunk and keep them there until after the trial in
June. He got the family to follow him to Manch
Chunk, bus he was outwitted by the detective, who
had been prominent under Stokiey, when Mayor of
this office was one Yoder, a private detective, who
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the Stokies when the Press.

Yoder had been prominent under Stokies, the telephia carried out his instructions to

rer and wrote the following letter:—

"Camden Jail, Jan. 15, 1880.

"John Hunter:—

"Dear Brother—Raise my counsel \$1,000. If necessary, I wish you to spend all I am worth in my defence.

John Hunter demurred. The money was raised on funter's bond which, after much litigation in the courts, was ordered to be pild by Judges Eleock, Thayer and Briggs in the Common Pleas Court in Philadelphia. It was paid afterward. The woman, who was young and beautiful, received nearly all the money she demanded and never appeared as a witness against the prisoner. A sailor lad, fourteen years of age, was confined in the Camden jail for some trivial offence and was permitted to carry the prisoners' breakinst to the cells occupied by them. Hunter conceived the idea that if an opportunity offered he would poison Graham and essue being hung for his crime. He sent for his brother who, though a man of high Christian character, clung to Benjamin. The prisoner endeavored to borrow \$500 from his brother but declined to state the object and his brother refused to advance the money. He then sent for his counsel and tearfully beggest that they would raise the money for him. When asked for what purpose he intended to use the money he answered, without a change of countenance, "thus the sailor had had promised to put strychnine at Graham's breakfast and thus put him out of the way." Needless to say, Hunter did not succeed in securing the loan. The sailor boy confessed and after this a double guard was placed over the prisoner.

After his sentence to be hanged in August, 1880.

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OTHER MURDERS, PERHAPS.

After his sentence to be hanged in August, 1889, Hunter grew despondent. He would not talk even to the members of his family, and one day when not closely guarded by Watchman Ware he secreted a small piece of the and cut an artery in his leg. When discovered he had almost bled to death, He never, to his latest hour, expressed the slightest contrition for the crime he had committed.

During the trial a tall, raw-boned, athletic young man twenty-one years of age, appeared in the court. He evidently lacked even ordinary intelligence. He carried with him a Bible which bore this inscription:—'From Benjamin Hunter to his sou Benjamin. The young man admitted that he was the liegitimate son of the prisoner, and expressed his regreathat the prosecution would not permit him to bestify to the good character of his real rather. The story of this young man, as told by those who knew his pathetic history, is this:—Hunter was in love with his mother and was the father of this half-witted son. The putative father was murdered and buried in a cellar in South street. Another person was anniged for this crime and it is believed that the mother of this boy died from poison placed in a beer glass at a German festival. It was believed that Hunter was guilty of the double murder.

FINAL BORDORS.

As the time approached for Hunter's execution his

FINAL HORRORS.

As the time approached for Hunter's execution his dread of death increased. He talked freely of his attempt to fasten the crime upon poor Graham who, after all, was the feebler intellect, perhaps hypnotized by the cunning scoundrellsm of Benjamin Figures.

atternation and the common the property of the story has obtained belief that Hunter was dead when he was hanged and there are many who believe that the County Physician was induced to give Hunter an overdose of landamum before he was carried down the sharing of the Camden Jail to be hung in front of the Sheriff's office. It is certain that Hunter was in a dying condition when carried down to the gallows by four men. He was weak from the loss of blood resulting from his attempted suicide.

Sheriff Calhoom had made a bungling attempt to break the culprit's neck at the first fall. The weights were too light. He fell to the floor, and was hauled to his doom as a flag is hauled up by its halyards.

It was a shocking sight and was witnessed by many of the leading citizens of Philadelphia and Camdea. Possibly fearing some public investigation the body was hurried into an undertuker's wagon, carried down Broadway and across the river at Kaighn's Point Perry, a mile and a half below the Court House, and Benjamin Hunter was quietly buried.

His brother, John Hunter, spent at least \$20,000 in his defence. The nurderer left an estate of \$40,600. An interesting family survived hip and they still live in the house at Eighth and Wharton streets, from whence Sheriff Daubman induced Benjamin Hunter in cross the Delaware River to explain his comection with the crime, and where he entered a prison which he left only after execution.

WHAT MOHT HAVE BEEN.

Benjamin Hunter was nearly six feet in height. He had a Semitic nose, deep sanken, furrive eyes, broad chest and rather slender limbs. He had the foot of a dangerous man to meet when you were alone on a dark night.

His life might have been saved, but he persistently lied to his counsel, even denying the existence of Tom Graham, his accomplice.

If the prisoner had ever been liberated on bail he would have gone unwhipped of justice, for he coolly said that he lind intended, the moment he was liberated to take Graham out shooting rabbits down "the Neck" near Point Breeze, and he

"He need hear Point Breeze, and he seriodically remarked:

"Before that day was over there would have been but one witness living who any Armstrong killed; that would have been myself."

The junior counsel for the prisoner advised insanity—the homicidal mania—as a defence. But this was overruled by Attorney General Browning, the advisory counsel.

this was overruled by Attorney General Browning, the silvinory counsel.

Many a man has felt "the halter draw" who had less circumstantial testimony than Ford W. Davis had against him. He was in fail over a month chargel with the number of Armstrong—such is the brony of fate—and he is now Sergeant-at-Arms of the Court that tried Hunter, and has charge of the court room in which he was released on habeas corpus, and he sits at the end of the same bench from which justice Woodhull sentenced Hunter to be hanged by the neck till he was dead.

Hunter died either from fright or poison. The \$26,000 insurance money was never paid. Armstrong's family made a long contest successfully before the jury, but the Supreme Court of the United States reversed the Court below. There was too much blood on the policies of insurance. Courts strink at making crime produble even to the innocent.

cent.

Renjamin Huster was as bad as Caligula, as remoredees as a Bogja, but when inexorable Death
faced him he died like a coward.

JAMES M. SCOVEL.